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On Repatriation Of Guatemalan Refugees From Mexico

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 5, Sergio Mollinedo, director of the National Repatriation Commission (CEAR), told reporters that 11,000 refugees in Mexico were expected to voluntarily return to their places of origin in 1992. According to Mollinedo, 1,776 refugees returned in 1991, more than twice the total for 1990. Mollinedo said that the government, together with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), had developed a program to provide land to repatriates for resettlement, and had recently submitted the proposal to refugee representatives. In 1992, the latter are expected to visit areas delineated for resettlement. According to Mollinedo, the government has accepted the refugees' pre-conditions for return and will guarantee their physical safety. In addition, he said, the repatriates will not be obligated to participate in rural civil defense patrols (PACs). The official said total resettlement costs for 1992 are estimated at US\$10 million. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 12/05/91)

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